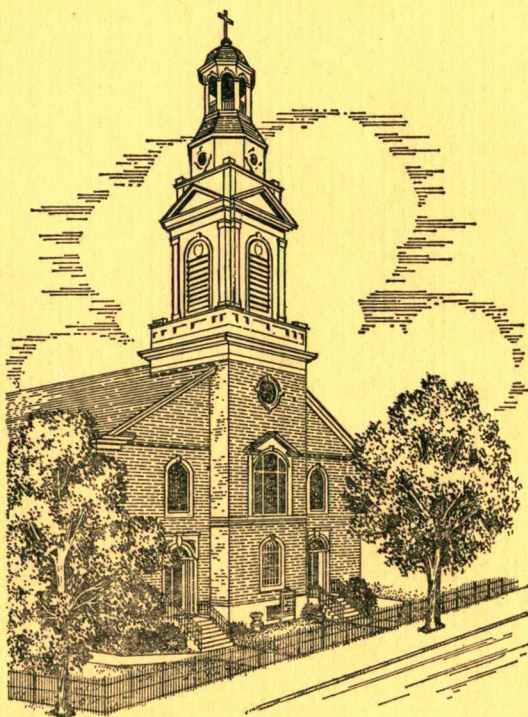


*History of*  
**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CONGREGATION**  
**EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA**  
*from 1940 to 1965*



*Compiled from*  
*The Official Minutes of the Congregation*  
*and from Minutes of the Synod*  
*by*  
**REV. WALTER C. G. VEIT, D.D.**  
*Pastor Emeritus*

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

231 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016

Telephone Area Code 212 532-3401

Office of the President

Seal

October, 1965

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

330 FERRY STREET

EASTON, PENNA.

DEAR BRETHREN:

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to be present at St. John's Church as it celebrates its two hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary. Unhappily I have been asked to represent the Lutheran World Federation at the meeting of world confessional bodies in Geneva.

St. John's Church is the fruit of seed planted in soil watered by the faith, Christian sympathy and conviction of our forefathers. The marks of God's grace and His favor are clearly visible. A man or a congregation would be an ingrate then if he did not look back with thankfulness of soul.

I pray that God's Word which is quick and powerful may continue to be proclaimed from your pulpit and that forgiveness, peace and joy will flow into your lives abundantly from your high altar in the future as they have in the past.

Cordially yours,

FRANKLIN CLARK FRY

FCF/md



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD  
OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
Muhlenberg Building — 2900 Queen Lane — Philadelphia, Pa. 19129  
Area Code 215 GERMANTOWN 8-0600

Office of the President

October 17, 1965

TO THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH:

St. John's Church has been a source of strength and blessing to literally tens of thousands of people in the course of its two hundred and twenty-five years of history. Most of what this church has done in the lives of people will remain unrecorded because the blessings have been shared individual by individual across the centuries. Only God knows what this congregation has meant to its people.

The festivities of the anniversary, however, do permit for a long look backward and the lifting of words of praise to God for what He has done. In the midst of the look backward there is found an urgency to look forward to what God still intends shall be done by His people in this His Church.

The whole church greets you on this occasion because out of St. John's Church has come meaning and support for the whole church.

Sincerely yours,

SAMUEL E. KIDD,  
*President*

SEK: hrg

The history of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran congregation, Easton, Pennsylvania, from the beginning as "The congregation on the Delaware River belonging to the Lutheran Religion," located at the foot of Morgan's Hill, South Easton, to the year 1940 has been ably recorded and published. An early historical account was given by the Rev. Dr. J. W. Richards as the last sermon of his ministry in St. John's Church, on March 1, 1851.

The next historical sketch was published as a Memorial Volume in 1882. This was on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the present church building and of the organization of the Sunday School. The Rev. D. H. Geissinger and Mr. Reuben Kolb served as the committee on publication. The chief part of this memorial volume is the historical sermon preached by the Rev. Benjamin Sadtler, D. D., a former pastor at St. John's. At the time Dr. Sadtler served as the President of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

In 1915, the pastor of the congregation, Dr. Franklin K. Fretz, in his "Historical Sketch of St. John's Church," traced its history through one hundred and seventy-five years. In the preface to that sketch he expressed "the hope and prayer that it may lead someone in the future to give to the congregation, at least when they may be permitted to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary, a fuller and more detailed work." This hope and prayer found fulfillment in the year 1940 when Barbara Fretz Kempton, Ph.D., published the volume "A History of St. John's Congregation," dedicated to her father, Franklin Kline Fretz. This is a comprehensive and well-documented account of this historic congregation. The year 1965 marks the two hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of Lutheranism at the Forks of the Delaware and of the life and service of St. John's congregation. It was deemed fitting therefore that the record of this historic congregation be brought up to date. The items that are here presented are culled from the official records of the congregation and in a few instances from the minutes of Synod, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and since 1962, the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Dr. Franklin K. Fretz was still the honored and beloved Pastor of St. John's for the observance of the two hundredth anniversary. Under his efficient leadership the event was fittingly celebrated. The anniversary service was held on the forenoon of Whitsunday, May 12, 1940. The festival sermons were preached by the Rev. Dr. Ernest P. Pfatteicher, the President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Fretz. The anniversary vespers took place that same day in the afternoon with addresses by the Honorable Arthur H. James, Governor of Pennsylvania, and the Rev. Dr. Gould Wickey, at the time Executive Secretary of the Board of Education of the United Lutheran Church in America. A community service was held on Wednesday evening, May 15, 1940 with addresses by the Rev. Dr. Paul Z. Strodach and Lutheran Pastors of Easton. On Trinity Sunday the Anniversary Communion was celebrated. The music for the festival occasion was in charge of the organist, Henry F. Eichlin.



One of the outstanding events of the Anniversary was the presentation of an historical pageant, entitled "Witnesses to the Light." This pageant was given in the Easton High School auditorium on Thursday and Friday, May 16 and 17, 1940. The pattern of the pageant was twofold. A series of scenes illustrating the great landmarks in the history of the congregation, and during each scene a famous painting was posed, illustrating a church festival. A large number of the members of the congregation presented eight scenes under the direction of this committee: Mrs. Herman Heyl, author and director; Mrs. Thomas Brown, assistant to director; Mrs. Rodney Wilhelm, costumes; Mr. Henry F. Eichlin, music; Dr. E. E. Eichlin, Sr.; Mr. Frank O. Moser; Mr. Frank Lerch; Mr. Herman Heyl, production; Mr. William M. Streepy, Jr., property; Mr. William J. Daub, Jr., lighting; Miss Marie Heyl and Rev. William Pfeifer, Jr., readers.

The Rev. William F. Pfeifer, Jr. completed his service as assistant to the Pastor on June 1, 1940. In June 1940 Wilton D. Ernst was invited to become the Assistant Pastor. After his ordination into the Christian ministry he began his service at St. John's on September 1, 1940 and served in this position until November 10, 1941.

The congregation had had the service of a parish Deaconess from the Mary J. Drexel Home and Motherhouse in Philadelphia for a period of almost thirty-three years. Sister Edith Stagg very ably filled this office beginning with her installation on November 11, 1907. Barbara Fretz Kempton in her history of St. John's makes mention of the fruitful work of Sister Edith as Parish Deaconess. In the minutes of the Church Council of September 9, 1940 there is this resolution relating to the death of Sister Edith Stagg:

"Whereas, God has called from our midst, Sister Edith M. Stagg, who has faithfully served our Congregation as Parish Deaconess for nearly thirty-three years, we place the following record in our minutes.

"Our Congregation was inexpressibly shocked on Sunday morning, September 1st, when our Pastor, Dr. Fretz, announced the death of Sister Edith. We desire to show our sincere love and esteem for her earnest labors on behalf of our congregation. She served St. John's in her office as Parish Deaconess for nearly a third of a century. We hereby express our appreciation of her labors of love in our Parish. As teacher of a Daily Kindergarten she fashioned the lives of hundreds, and her works of charity and mercy are testified to by a host of others who were the objects of her care. We extend our sympathy to members of her family and to the Sisters and members of the Mary J. Drexel Motherhouse and Home for Deaconesses, whose interest she always had in mind, and devoutly commend all to Him who doeth all things well to those who love Him.

"On motion it was agreed that this resolution be placed in these minutes and that one copy be sent the Motherhouse and another be sent to the editors of *The Lutheran*."

The earthly remains of Sister Edith are resting in the congregation's burial plot in the Easton Cemetery. The minutes of April 14, 1941 record, "It was reported by Dr. Fretz that the Willing Workers, Sister Edith's Sunday School class, have erected a tombstone on Sister Edith's grave."

At the time when the death of Sister Edith was announced to the Council, "it was the very definite opinion of the members that a successor to Sister Edith be obtained as soon as possible. Accordingly, on motion it was decided that a formal application be made to the Mary J. Drexel Motherhouse for such a successor." In June 1941 Sister Esther Bunge was called to serve as Deaconess, and she ably filled this office until July 1951. Sister Esther has described her duties in these words: "My primary responsibility was teaching daily Kindergarten classes, which one year enrolled ninety children. I attended, and was a guiding factor in all women's groups (Von Bora circles), Missionary Societies, and Willing Workers. I taught the weekly program for children of the Church. I supervised the Luther League organization. I visited regularly all sick and shut-in members of the congregation. I kept the Nursery Roll and sent form letters to children too young for Sunday School. I went to all viewings of those who had died. I taught the Beginner Department in Sunday School and supervised the personnel and quality of teaching in the Primary Department. I took leadership part (taught classes) in community schools for Sunday School workers."

After serving in the pastorate of St. John's for twenty-nine years, Dr. Franklin K. Fretz died at the parsonage on June 25, 1941. He was one of the most widely known and most highly respected pastors in the then United Lutheran Church in America. The Church Council adopted this resolution at its meeting on August 11, 1941:

"Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on Wednesday, June 25, 1941, called Franklin K. Fretz, Ph.D., D.D., to his heavenly rest.

"A consecrated gentleman, Dr. Fretz was graduated from Muhlenberg College, 1897, and from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy, 1900. He then assumed the pastorate of St. John's Church at Quakertown, Pennsylvania, and in 1905 was made junior pastor of St. Mark's Church Philadelphia. Dr. Fretz was then called to St. John's Lutheran Church, Easton, Pennsylvania, where he ministered to its large congregation and to the community of Easton for twenty-nine years, to the time of his passing.

"Not only a renowned preacher of the Gospel, Dr. Fretz also attained a high position as an educator. In 1900 he organized a psychological clinic at Temple University, and from 1909 to 1920 held the chair of sociology in that institution.

"A lover of his fellowman, he was deeply interested in all civic and community efforts. He was an honorary member of Kiwanis International, a trustee of Easton Public Library, a past president of Northampton County Historical Society, and a member of the Pennsylvania German Society. These and the high offices which he held in



the organization of his chosen denomination are but a few of the many activities which caused the local press to write, editorially, on the occasion of his death:

'A man of gentle nature, he was nevertheless an excellent organizer and one who was capable of bringing his Church to a plane of fiscal as well as spiritual efficiency and keeping it there.

'As the minister of one of the Nation's leading denominations and as the shepherd of one of Easton's leading churches, Dr. Fretz's influence for good penetrated many channels in the community's life, and the wholesome memory of what he stood for, of what he said and of what he did will long abide among all who knew him.'

"Whereas, the suddenness of his death accentuated more keenly the profound loss his church, community and family have suffered at this passing; therefore, be it

"Resolved that the members of Council, along with the members of the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church of Easton, Pennsylvania, and the many other friends of Dr. Fretz, mourn his passing; and be it further

"Resolved, that the Secretary of Church Council send copies of this resolution to his widow, Cora W. Fretz, and his daughter, Barbara F. Kempton, as an expression of the sincere heartfelt sympathy of the members of Council; and be it further

"Resolved, that when this meeting adjourns, it does so out of deep love for their erstwhile pastor and friend, and in honor and memory of his name."

Here in Easton Dr. Fretz rendered his greatest service as faithful pastor, distinguished preacher and able community leader. The Rev. Dr. Ernst P. Pfatteicher, President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and the Rev. Walter C. G. Veit, President of the Allentown Conference, officiated at the funeral service held in St. John's Church. Interment took place in the Easton Cemetery. His widow, Mrs. Cora Fretz, continued her membership in the congregation until her demise on March 20, 1955.

The successor to Dr. Fretz was the Rev. Henry C. Cornehlssen. He began his ministry on November 3, 1941. The installation took place on November 23, 1941.

William Elbert, a graduate student at the Philadelphia Lutheran Theological Seminary, who was ordained on March 15, 1942, was called to be the assistant to Pastor Cornehlssen. He began his duties on June 1, 1942. His resignation took effect on November 9, 1942.

After serving as organist at St. John's, faithfully and efficiently, for a long period of years, Mr. Henry F. Eichlin resigned on May 15, 1944. Mr. Eichlin had begun his service as organist in 1911. The statement that appears in the history of Barabara Fretz Kempton may well be repeated here: "As far as can

be learned from the records, this was the longest term served by any organist in the entire history of the church."

Dr. John P. G. Beiswanger succeeded Mr. Eichlin. His term of office extended from August 15, 1944 to August 1, 1945. Mr. Darl Bethmann was elected to the position of choirmaster and baritone soloist on September 1, 1944 and he continued to serve until July 15, 1953. The term of Mr. Randolph W. Hackman as organist extended from August 1, 1945 to February 15, 1953.

A request had come to the Church Council by the Rev. Dr. Paul C. Empie for a leave of absence for Pastor Cornehlson from September 15, 1946 to December 31, 1947 to assist as a special commissioner to China to take over properties of the Lutheran Church in China by Lutheran World Action. The request was granted and Pastor Cornehlson carried out the assignment. During his absence the Rev. Dr. Paul Z. Strodach was asked to serve as supply Pastor. Dr. Strodach had served St. John's as an assistant Pastor beginning in December 1901. After his retirement as the literary editor of the Lutheran Publication House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he came to St. John's in September 1946 and continued to serve until his sudden death on May 30, 1947. After his return from China, Pastor Cornehlson served at St. John's until his resignation on May 12, 1950.

During the interim until the new Pastor assumed the ministry at St. John's, the pulpit was filled by supply pastors. Local Lutheran pastors assisted with the parish pastoral duties. The Rev. Richard W. Lundin began his ministry at St. John's on June 1, 1951. His installation took place on June 3. The congregation responded loyally to his wise and efficient leadership and as a result showed progress in the various areas of its service. During his pastorate, for example, the response to the call of the Lutheran Church for its benevolent projects showed a marked advance; a successful evangelism campaign was conducted, which resulted in a long range constructive program; an extensive renovation affecting the church, the chapel, the Sunday School and parish house facilities was carried out. These items will be outlined in greater detail in the course of this account.

Beginning on September 8, 1951 Sister Mary Shepley served as the Parish Deaconess for a brief period of time.

Following the resignation of Mr. Randolph Hackman, Mr. Robert Kuebler was elected to the position of organist. He began his service on February 16, 1953. After the resignation of Mr. Darl Bethmann as choirmaster in July 1953, Mr. Kuebler was appointed to fill also this position. He served in this office with fidelity until May 1962.

In the first century since its organization in 1832 St. John's Sunday School has had but five superintendents, namely Mr. Henry Bender, Mr. Harry Hammann, Mr. Owen Hagenbuch, Mr. Charles D. Stecker, Mr. Charles F. Stecker. The



later assumed office in 1923 and served faithfully and efficiently for thirty years. In the minutes of July 13, 1953 there is this resolution:

"Whereas, Mr. Charles F. Stecker was called by the Sunday School of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the year 1923 to serve as its superintendent; and

"Whereas, July 1, 1953, shall terminate thirty years of faithful service on the part of Mr. Stecker in that responsible position; and

"Whereas, Mr. Stecker has requested that he be relieved of the duties attendant upon that office at this significant anniversary in his life; be it therefore resolved:

"1. That we express our gratitude to God for His grace in granting Mr. Stecker health and strength for these years of honorable service in His Church and its Sunday School.

"2. That we express to Mr. Stecker our heartfelt appreciation for his loyal and excellent labors in behalf of St. John's Church.

"3. That we pray God's richest blessing upon him for his remaining years.

"4. That we regretfully accept his resignation, praying that his labors for the Lord shall abound in other areas of service."

Mrs. Charles F. Wolcott served acceptably in the position of Parish Worker from December 1, 1953 to December 1, 1954.

That the congregation responds to the needs of the community was demonstrated when a disastrous flood came to the Delaware Valley. The crest of the flood reached Easton and Phillipsburg on August 19, 1955. Very soon thereafter a special meeting of the Church Council was held to consider ways of helping various members of the congregation who had suffered loss. Without solicitation a large amount in cash donations had been contributed by the members of the congregation. A number of flood victims not only received financial aid, but also personal help to rehabilitate their homes. By action of Council the Pastor was given full authority to distribute the remaining funds to flood victims where needed.

During the week of November 6, 1955 the first of some 400 Evangelism Missions, to be held throughout the territory of the United Lutheran Church, were conducted in the Allentown Conference. St. John's under the leadership of the Pastor and Church Council wholeheartedly entered into this program. One of the features of this program, also known as a Preaching Mission, was to have a guest Pastor to assist in organizing and directing the project. The congregation was fortunate in obtaining the service of the Rev. Dr. Fred Wiegman of Akron, Ohio, as missionary. In the minutes of the November 14 meeting of the Council there is this entry: "It was the unanimous opinion that great opportunities for Christian service had been uncovered by our Evangelism Mission. It was the wish of every councilman that the work started during the past week be con-

tinued as a permanent program of the church." To implement this desire Council directed that a committee be appointed and "charged with the responsibility of developing an active and continuing Evangelism program here at St. John's." At the December meeting of Council this committee presented a detailed report of its findings with an outline of definite recommendations for action. Then there is this notation: "Most of these recommendations are entirely new and do not have any past precedent in our church organization." After further study a working program was outlined which is still being carried out. The following are the chief recommendations which were adopted on February 13, 1956:

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1. Each committee shall consist of a chairman (augmented in some instances by a vice-chairman) from the Council and such members from the congregation as necessary to carry out its responsibilities.
2. It is expected that each committee shall meet and function independently in such fashion that its brief report to the Council shall be predominantly for information or approval.

#### CHRISTIAN SERVICE

1. Bringing emergency aid to members of the church and of the community in times of special need. This will entail visits to the homes of the perennially needy.
2. Organize a group of visitors to call regularly upon the shut-ins. This will include the program of taking the tape-recorded services to them.
3. Oversight of the congregation's ministry to hospitals, child-care agencies, older people, poor, etc.
4. Represent the Council in spiritual ministry to members at times of crises. This will include proprieties to beloved members at death.

#### EVANGELISM

Direct the evangelism program of the entire congregation by functioning in these 4 sub-committees:

1. Spiritual life — inculcation of right spiritual goals in the individual, organizational and corporate life of the church.
2. Membership conservation — watchful care for the spiritual life of all members.
3. Investigation of prospects for evangelism.
4. Visitation of the unchurched as well as "falling" and "fallen" members.



## STEWARDSHIP

1. Plan, arrange and conduct the Every Member Visitation.
2. Send a quarterly report or letter to the congregation informing of stewardship attainment.
3. Make continuing recommendations for improvements in stewardship practices.
4. Ordering and distribution of stewardship materials.
5. See the benevolent programs of the church are rightly brought to the congregation.
6. Preparation and distribution, as soon after the year's end as practicable, a summary of each individual's giving.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

1. Organize sub-committee to care for the following facets of worship:
  1. Music
    - a. Supervise, encourage and assist all choir personnel in their activities.
    - b. Oversight of organ, pianos and vestments.
  2. Acolytes
    - a. Instruct and provide acolytes for services.
  3. Ushers
    - a. Provide permanent corps of trained ushers (possibly 30-40). They should be at "station" at least 20 minutes before service time.
  4. Greeters
    - a. Couples at each entrance to befriend worshippers.
2. The committee shall also:
  1. Attend to the physical conditions (heat, light, ventilation, etc.) prior to and during services.
  2. Provide supply pastors when needed.
  3. Have oversight of hymnals, acousticons, etc.
  4. Act as liaison between Council and Altar Guild.

## PROPERTY

1. Present at the March council meeting an exhaustive analysis of all repairs and improvements necessary to the church property, regardless of time or cost involved. This will include an appraisal of the major components of the property regardless of their existing condition.
2. The cleanliness and good housekeeping of the property. The committee will direct the work of the sexton as necessary to this end.
3. Responsibility shall also include grounds, shrubbery, etc.

4. The committee acting as a unit shall periodically (at least monthly) inspect the entire property.

5. Responsibility for adequate insurance coverage.

6. At the end of each year, prepare an estimate of repairs deemed essential for the following year.

7. It is suggested that a small corps of handymen be formed, not to be members of the property committee but to assist in small jobs not requiring professional care.

The service of Alvin C. Greib, Jr. as helper in the work of the congregation dates back to May 9, 1955. At that time he was elected to serve for a term of three years as student assistant to the Pastor. Mr. Greib then was a pre-theological student at Lafayette College. He assisted with the youth activities in the church, working in the Sunday School, the Luther League, and because of his musical background with the children's choir. During the summer of 1960 he served in this capacity and also on weekends while attending the Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. After his graduation from the Seminary he was ordained a Minister of the Church on May 28, 1961. The act of ordination was performed by the Rev. Dr. Charles M. Cooper, President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, in St. John's Church, Overbrook, Philadelphia. Mr. Greib had been elected to become the assistant pastor at St. John's on May 14, 1961. He served in this office very acceptably and efficiently until his resignation on October 14, 1962 to take up his ministry as a chaplain of the Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York.

Council voted on September 9, 1957 to allot \$600.00 annually toward the partial support of a missionary serving under the Board of World Missions. The present recipient under this allotment is a missionary stationed in Japan.

The *Service Book and Hymnal* authorized by eight Lutheran Churches co-operating in the Commission on the Liturgy and Hymnal was used by St. John's for the first time on Sunday, April 27, 1958.

At a special meeting held on April 20, 1958 the congregation approved the purchase of a new parsonage at 324 Paxinosa Avenue, the purchase price to be \$22,500.00. The former parsonage located to the east of the church is to be used for church offices and for Sunday School purposes.

A major renovation program for educational expansion was completed in 1959. The following projects were carried out in the program:

1. In the nave the walls and ceiling were refurbished. The present colonial windows were created and installed by Leonids Linauts of Mohnton, Pa.

2. The rear portion of the former Sunday school auditorium was utilized to make the present narthex.



3. The remaining portion of the same auditorium was redesigned to place a chapel at the center of it, with the chapel surrounded by four class-rooms. A new ceiling was inserted to divide the old auditorium vertically. This made possible a passageway by which to enter the balcony from either side and also a large undeveloped area for future expansion.

4. Excavation and development of the basement beneath the nave into a parish hall and Sunday school facilities.

5. Incorporation of the former kitchen into the Fretz Memorial Room by removing the wall separating them and refinishing the new enlarged room for a nursery.

6. A new Allen organ was installed in the chapel.

7. Installation of a completely new zoned heating plant and a new kitchen.

The Allentown firm of Heyl, Bond and Miller did the architectural work for the project. A capital fund endeavor was conducted by the Martz and Lundy firm.

The names of the donors of the colonial windows are recorded on plates attached to the wall in the rear of the nave, or under the window in other parts of the building. The plates in the narthex record the donors of the chapel organ, chapel furnishings, primary room and narthex lights. Many of these special donations are memorials to loved ones. The names of those memorialized are also recorded on the plates. A large number of the members of the congregation contributed very generously of their gifts. This is indicated by the total cost of this project. The minutes dated March 31, 1960 have this entry: Renovation Fund disbursement \$266,431. The following gave unsparingly of their time and talents and gifts to carry out this program.

#### RENOVATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

George L. Transue, *Chairman*

John G. Callahan

Mrs. Chester Swartz

Henry S. Paul

Charles F. Stecker

Miss Anna Searfoss

Howard R. Weckerley

#### PLANS AND CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Howard R. Weckerley, *Chairman*

Walter W. Kellow

Frank J. Lerch

Edwin Stipe, Jr.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

William J. Daub

James A. Hemstreet

Elmer W. Rowe

The rededication service was held on Sunday morning, October 18, 1959. Pastor Lundin and Seminarians James Henry and Robert Willauer were in charge of the liturgy. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Henry H. Bagger, president of the Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa.

Open house and congregational supper took place on November 1, 1959. During open house from 5:00 to 6:00 p. m. Mr. Robert Kuebler played the new chapel organ. The program in the new Social Auditorium began at 6:00 p. m. Mr. George L. Transue, Renovation General Chairman was the master of ceremonies. Greetings were brought by the Rev. Glenn G. Neubauer, Dean of the Easton District, Ministerium of Pennsylvania. The Rev. George A. Creitz, D.D., Pastor, First United Church of Christ addressed the congregation on the theme: "As One Old Neighbor to Another." The Rev. Arthur P. Grammes, the former pastor of St. Paul's Church, N. 4th Street, spoke the Prayer of Thanksgiving. Pastor Grammes had served as the supply pastor during the greater part of the interim until Pastor Lundin began his ministry in St. John's.

Miss Denise Francois was selected to the position of Parish Worker at a special meeting of Council on June 27, 1960. Miss Francois served in this office successfully during the greater part of one year.

At a special meeting of Council on December 3, 1961, Pastor Lundin announced that he had been called by the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to teach in the position of Professor of Homiletics. He stated that he had accepted the call and submitted his resignation as Pastor of St. John's. This action was accepted by Council "with profound regret." On February 1, 1962 Pastor Lundin ended his fruitful ministry of ten years and eight months at St. John's to assume the position as Professor of Practical Theology to which he had been elected. During the interim Pastor Greib had been asked by Council "to carry on the pastoral needs of the congregation until a new Pastor is selected."

The outstanding event of the year 1962 was the reunification of Zion and St. John's Churches. The initial suggestion for a realignment of the four downtown Easton Lutheran Churches dates back more than thirty years when Dr. Ernst Pfatteicher was President of Synod, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. The committee which Dr. Pfatteicher had appointed to study the matter reached the conclusion that the time for such action had not yet come. The matter rested there for many years. After the retirement from the active ministry of the Pastors of Zion and Christ Churches new interest was revived in this matter. It was felt by the administration of Synod and also locally that the time for a restudy of the whole question had arrived. As a preliminary step a survey of the Lutheran Churches of the Easton Area was conducted by representatives of the congregations under the guidance of the Urban Department of the Home Mission Board



of Synod. The Rev. Orval C. Hartman was the director of this project. The survey showed that because of the overlapping parish lines of the congregations in the constricted downtown area of Easton a realignment was desirable and would serve to coordinate and strengthen the work of the Church. The councils of the congregations concerned appraised the situation; they studied the various possibilities and ultimately this was the result: One congregation (St. Paul's, North Fourth Street) decided to relocate and has erected a new church plant on the Newburg Road. Another congregation (Christ) took action to continue at its present location. The Church Council of Zion Church made a proposal of reunification with St. John's Church. This overture was very cordially received by the Council of St. John's. Special committees and the Councils of both congregations gave careful and intensive and above all prayerful study to all questions involved. As a result, it was mutually agreed to submit the proposal to the vote of the congregations at their annual meetings in January 1962. Both congregations approved the proposal of reunification by a favorable affirmative vote. At the March 8, 1962 meeting the Executive Board of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania approved this merger. Approval was also given by the Easton District of the Synod. At special meetings of the congregations held on March 18, 1962 the following enabling articles were passed by an overwhelming affirmative vote:

RESOLVED, that approval be given to the following Plan of Consolidation between Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Easton, Pennsylvania, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation, incorporated on November 29, 1870, and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Easton, Pennsylvania, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation, incorporated on December 21, 1874,\* in accordance with the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law:

1. The name of the consolidated corporation will be St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Easton, Pa.
2. The consolidation will be effective as of April 29, 1962, if duly approved by the Easton District of The Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and the Adjacent States, and by the Ministerium Executive Board, notwithstanding the possibility that the legal steps required by the Pennsylvania statutes may take additional time.
3. The consolidated corporation will succeed to all assets and liabilities of both corporations.
4. The Pastors presently serving the congregations of the constituent corporations will continue to serve following the consolidation as interim associate pastors, the division of their responsibilities to be defined by the council of the consolidated congregation, until a pastor-in-charge is called by the consolidated congregation and begins his service.
5. The consolidated corporation will adopt a constitution and by-laws based upon the documents recommended for congregations

\*Date of revision. Charter originally granted in 1807.

of the Lutheran Church in America. On and after the effective date of consolidation and until a new constitution and by-laws are adopted, the consolidated corporation will be governed by the constitution and by-laws of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Easton, Pa., revised January 9, 1952.

6. All members of the church councils of both corporations will continue to serve as a council of the consolidated corporation until the terms for which they were originally elected expire, and at the regular annual congregational meeting in each year, beginning with 1963, five new members shall be elected to the council.

The Northampton County Court approved the merger. This action of the Court was executed on April 2, 1962 by Judge Clinton Budd Palmer. All transactions pertaining to this project were carried out in the finest spirit of Christian comity and unity. The final act in the reunification took place on Sunday, April 29, 1962.\* At the Office for Reunification of Congregations which preceded the Festival Service, announcement of the action of the congregations to unite was made by Mr. Norman A. Peil, for Zion Church, and Mr. George R. Transue for St. John's Church. The declaration of the completion of the reunification was made by the Rev. Orval C. Hartman, the official representative of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. At the Festival, the Rev. Walter C. G. Veit, D.D., was the officiant. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Orval C. Hartman, M.A. The assisting ministers were the Rev. John F. Steinbruck and the Rev. Alvin C. Greib, Jr., the interim associate pastors. Timothy Merwarth acted as acolyte. The senior choir under the direction of Mr. Robert Kuebler sang two anthems. A supper fellowship hour took place with addresses by Pastors Walter C. G. Veit, Richard W. Lundin, and Philip H. Pfatteicher, the great-grandson of the first pastor of Zion, and Mr. Norman C. Peil and Mr. Robert Reese. The memorable day closed with Vespers at which Pastors Alvin C. Greib, Jr. and John F. Steinbruck officiated. Robert Simons served as acolyte. The Wilson Borough High School choir sang two selections under the direction of Edwin Schatkowski.

*\*When St. John's and Zion congregations merged on April 28, 1962 the reunited congregation was still a member of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and of the United Lutheran Church in America. The constituting convention of the new church was held two months later from June 28 to July 1, 1962 at Cobo Hall, Civic Center, Detroit, Michigan. The merging church bodies were:*

AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
THE AUGUSTANA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
THE FINNISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA  
THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

*The name of the new Church is: LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA. St. John's congregation is now a member of this new Church. It is a member of the Easton District, Eastern Pennsylvania Synod, Lutheran Church in America. A new Church brings with it new privileges, new and greater responsibilities in the Lord's work and some adjustments on our part.*



The property of Zion congregation, including the Church, the primary Sunday School building and the parsonage, located at Fifth and Church Streets, were sold to the William Parsons Chapter No. 185, Eastern Star.

The present Taylor lot at Fourth and Ferry Streets which until 1868 had been used as a graveyard by St. John's was sold to the Board of Control of the Borough of Easton in 1868. On it had been erected the Taylor School building. In 1962 this property was repurchased by St. John's. The school building was dismantled and the lot is now in use as a parking area and a portion of it as a community playground.

The June 6, 1962 edition of the Lutheran carried an interesting article on the reunification written by Robert E. Huldshiner, assistant editor. This article is entitled: Tradition: Liability or Asset? In the course of the article he said of the congregations: "They were both doing well. They merged not because they were on the verge of collapse but because they saw what the future demanded of them. It was the case of two alert congregations responding to intelligent leadership both from pastors and laymen." Referring to the day of the reunification he said: "It was a warm, sunny day, and all things looked new as the future was taking shape for two churches that had turned tradition into an asset."

Mr. Howard Drake assembled interesting data on the events with illustrations relating to the reunification of St. John's and Zion congregations and also other valuable material relating to the history of St. John's. These items are on file in the vault of the church.

After serving as interim Pastor of the merged congregation, Pastor John F. Steinbruck was elected as the Pastor of St. John's congregation on June 24, 1962. The Rev. Arthur Deibert served as the official representative of the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod at the election. The installation of Pastor Steinbruck took place on September 23, 1962. The Rev. Martin C. Wiznat, Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia preached the sermon. The Order for the Installation of a Pastor was conducted by the Rev. Glenn G. Neubauer, Dean of the Easton District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod. Following the service a reception was held in honor of the new Pastor and his family. Pastor Steinbruck is serving as a faithful Pastor in every area of the congregation's activities. He is also a member of the important committees in the Synod and in the Easton District of Synod. The Rev. Alvin C. Greib, Jr. served as the assistant pastor until October 14, 1962 when he began his ministry as chaplain of the Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York.

Upon his retirement from the active pastorate in 1957, Pastor Walter C. G. Veit was elected by Zion congregation to the position of Pastor Emeritus. By

action of the Church Council he was continued in this position in St. John's Church after the merger.

After serving efficiently in the office of organist and choirmaster for more than nine years the resignation of Mr. Robert Kuebler went into effect in June 1962. In the interim until a new incumbent was elected Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Schatkowski very ably filled the position of organist and choir director. At the August 13, 1962 meeting, Council took action to extend a call to Mr. John C. Boesenhofer to serve St. John's as Organist, Choir Director and Director of Religious Education. The call was accepted and Mr. Boesenhofer began to serve in this office on February 1, 1963.

The St. John's EAGLE has been in circulation in the congregation for a number of years. Since April 1965 this publication is appearing in a new format. Pastor Steinbruck has this to say about the new St. John's EAGLE:

"The St. John's EAGLE has become an increasingly important medium of communication for the congregation and its auxiliary organizations. At its February meeting the Church Council approved a printed EAGLE using the service of the Message Publishing Company, Philadelphia. The monthly, eight-page issue (July and August excluded) will enlarge upon a work which has already served us well and will be needed more than ever during this 225th anniversary year."

To keep the congregation informed on the activities of the Church-at-Large, THE LUTHERAN, the official publication of the Lutheran Church in America is being sent to all the families of the congregation.

During the summer of 1964 Seminarian Frederic Brussat served in the congregation as the Pastor's assistant in the worship services and especially in the field of pastoral visitation and youth activities. At the September 14, 1964 meeting the Church Council expressed its appreciation and commendation for the exceptionally fine work of Mr. Brussat during his internship at St. John's. At the same meeting Council ordered that a call be extended to Mr. Aubrey Bougher, Muhlenberg College senior and pre-theological major, to serve this congregation on weekends as the Pastor's assistant. Mr. Bougher is President of the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod Luther League and experienced in church work through service in his home church, St. Paul's, South Side, Easton. He is performing a very acceptable service.

After serving the congregation ably as Parish Secretary for more than twenty years, Mrs. Ruth E. Weidman retired from this position in May 1965.

Representatives of the Easton Lutheran Churches are at present cooperating in a program: To encourage deeper understanding of the common mission as The Church; to promote joint programs to strengthen and raise standards in



areas of youth work, schools of religion and theological study, catechetical training; to work together to resolve social problems; to strive for a stronger stewardship program.

At the recent convention of the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod, Lutheran Church in America, held at The Inn, Buck Hill Falls, Pa., Mr. Earl Keyser, Vice-President of the Church Council, had the distinct honor of addressing the mass meeting of the laymen of the convention. Mr. Keyser is currently serving as a member of the synodical committee on Religion and Race. This assignment is a high honor not only to Mr. Keyser, but to the congregation of St. John's as well.

Another honor came to the congregation and to one of its active laymen when Mr. L. Jack Bradt was elected to serve for a term of one year as the President of the Easton Council of Churches.

At the service on Sunday, June 13, Pastor and Mrs. Veit were honored by the congregation on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the ordination of Pastor Veit into the Christian ministry. Pastor Steinbruck read letters of greeting from Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, President, Lutheran Church in America, Dr. Samuel E. Kidd, President, Eastern Pennsylvania Synod, Dr. Claude E. Shick, Secretary, Eastern Pennsylvania Synod. Mr. Richard T. Haney, President of the Church Council, conveyed the congratulations of the congregation not only in kind words but also with a very substantial purse. Following the church service a reception was held in the social room of the church.

What has been recorded here refers principally to the external work and development of the congregation. Its present status is evidence of the fact that there has been a steady growth, but more important by far than this external progress is the inner life of a congregation, the growth of the members in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. And what that has been He who "is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" alone knows. But where in a congregation the Word of God has been taught in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to the institution of Christ, and sin sick souls in repentance and faith have looked to Jesus Christ, the Savior, and have served Him faithfully, there the blessing of God cannot fail. His promise remains unshaken: "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10,11.

## APPENDIX

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Grateful acknowledgment is herewith expressed to the many who so kindly assisted in the assembling of the material in this historical sketch: To Mr. John E. Halbing for spending many hours in reading and making extracts of the available minutes of the church and for his service as general chairman of the anniversary historical committee. His helpfulness has been invaluable; to Mrs. Jean Halbing Hay for typing not only the extracts of the minutes, but also for typing the final draft of this historical sketch; to Pastor John Steinbruck for his readiness and helpfulness in making records available; to Dr. Edwin Eichlin, Sr., and Mrs. Elmer Rowe for furnishing pertinent material. The following furnished articles in the Appendix:

CHURCH COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES: Pastor John Steinbruck

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Mr. Harry Denninger

CHOIRS AND LUTHER LEAGUE: Mr. John Boesenhofer

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN: Mrs. Bernard Merwarth

THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY: Mrs. Oliver Case

THE ENDOWMENT FUND: Mr. William J. Kocher

Cordial thanks also to Mrs. Ruth Weidman, parish secretary and Mr. Arthur Walters, sexton, for their assistance. Sincere thanks to Mr. Frank O. Moser and his committee for supervising the printing and proof-reading of this sketch.

WALTER C. G. VEIT



# PASTORS

John Justus Birkenstock	1740-1744
Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg	}
Nicholas Kurtz	
J. Frederick Vigera	
Ludolph Henry Schrenk	1749-1754
Daniel Schumacher	May to Dec 1758
Bernard Michael Hausihl	1763-1764
Christian Streit	1769-1779
Frederick Ernst	1780-1782
M. Solomon Friederici	1782-1798
Augustus Heinrich Schmidt	1799-1801
Christian Frederick Endress	1801-1815
John Peter Hecht	1815-1845
John W. Richards	1845-1851
Charles Frederick Schaffer	1851-1856
Benjamin Sadtler	1856-1862
Philip Pfatteicher	1860-1871
<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	
Beale M. Schmucker	1862-1867
Edmund Belfour	1868-1874
James R. Groff	1874-1881
David Harrison Geissinger	1882-1893
John E. Witteker	1893-1895
Paul G. Klingler	1896-1900
John C. Seegers	1901-1911
Paul Z. Strodach	1901-1903
<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	
Franklin K. Fretz	1912-1941
William F. Pfeifer, Jr.	1939-1940
<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	
Wilton D. Ernst	1940-1941
<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	
Henry C. Cornehlson	1941-1950
William Elbert	1942-
<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	
Paul Z. Strodach	1946-1947
<i>Supply Pastor</i>	
Richard W. Lundin	1951-1962
Alvin C. Greib	
<i>Student Assistant</i>	1955-1960
<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	1961-1962
John F. Steinbruck	1962-
Walter C. G. Veit	1962-
<i>Pastor Emeritus</i>	
Frederic Brussat	1964
<i>Student Assistant</i>	
Aubrey Bougher	1964-
<i>Student Assistant</i>	

# PASTORS OF ZION CHURCH

Philip Pfatteicher	1870-1908
Walter C. G. Veit	1909-1957
Earl W. Freight, Jr.	1957-1959
John F. Steinbruck	1960-1962

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Richard P. Haney, *President*  
Earl Keyser, Sr., *Vice-President*  
William J. Kocher, *Recording Secretary*  
Earle W. Snyder, *Chairman Finance Committee*  
Kenneth C. Snyder, *Treasurer*  
Miss Esther Bellmer, *Financial Secretary*

1965	1966	1967
Richard R. Campf	William J. Collins	Miss Ruth C. Benner
Richard P. Haney	William J. Daub, II	Frank C. Buss
Earl Keyser, Sr.	Hans Jacob	Mrs. Geraldine Reese
John H. Kressman	Howard F. Miller	David Schurz
Elmer W. Rowe	Frank Stulz, Jr.	Earl Snyder

## CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

COMMITTEE	CHAIRMAN	ASSOCIATE
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	John H. Kressman	David Schurz
CHRISTIAN SERVICE	Frank E. Stulz, Jr.	Earl Keyser, Sr.
EVANGELISM	David Schurz	Mrs. Geraldine Reese
FINANCE	Earle W. Snyder	William J. Daub, II
PARISH LIFE	Howard F. Miller	Miss Ruth C. Benner
PROPERTY	Elmer W. Rowe	Hans Jacob Howard F. Miller
STEWARDSHIP	William J. Daub, II	Miss Ruth C. Benner
WORSHIP AND MUSIC	William J. Collins	Richard R. Campf Frank Buss
YOUTH WORK	Richard R. Campf	Mrs. Geraldine Reese



DELEGATES TO THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

- 1944 Minneapolis, Minnesota — Stewart Ackerman  
 1952 Seattle, Washington — Hon. Carleton T. Woodring  
 1954 Toronto, Ontario — Hon. Carleton T. Woodring  
 1956 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania — Hon. Carleton T. Woodring  
 1958 Dayton, Ohio — Hon. Carleton T. Woodring  
 1960 Atlantic City, New Jersey — Hon. Carleton T. Woodring  
 1962 Organization of Lutheran Church in America, Detroit, Michigan —  
     Hon. Carleton T. Woodring  
 1964 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania — Robert A. Reese  
 1966 Kansas City, Missouri — Hon. Carleton T. Woodring

The Hon. Carleton T. Woodring is at present serving as a member of the Board of American Missions of the Lutheran Church in America.

DELEGATES TO SYNOD

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1941 Stewart Ackerman    | 1953 Carleton T. Woodring |
| 1942 Stewart Ackerman    | 1954 William J. Daub, II  |
| 1943 George L. Transue   | 1955 William J. Daub, II  |
| 1944 Stewart Ackerman    | 1956 Paul E. Sandt        |
| 1945 None                | 1957 William J. Daub, II  |
| 1946 None                | 1958 James A. Hemstreet   |
| 1947 None                | 1959 Allen R. Willauer    |
| 1948 Paul E. Sandt       | 1960 H. R. Weckerley      |
| 1948 William J. Kocher   | 1961 W. W. Kellow         |
| 1949 Ralph L. Way        | 1962 Robert Reese         |
| 1950 Maynard N. Kressman | 1963 Richard Kessler      |
| 1951 Clarence Koplin     | 1963 David M. Edgar       |
| 1952 Paul E. Sandt       | 1964 Richard P. Haney     |
| 1952 Clarence Koplin     | 1965 James A. Hemstreet   |

COMMUNION AND BENEVOLENCE RECORD

*Each communicant counted once per year — from Parochial Report. Synod Minutes*

	COM- MU- NIONS	BE- NEVO- LENCE		COM- MU- NIONS	BE- NEVO- LENCE
Jan. 1, 1941 .....	616	\$ 5,401	Jan. 1, 1953 .....	779	\$10,389
" 1942 .....	650	4,424	" 1954 .....	806	11,290
" 1943 .....	742	4,922	" 1955 .....	758	16,102
" 1944 .....	820	4,304	" 1956 .....	791	18,937
" 1945 .....	867	4,526	" 1957 .....	835	16,941
" 1946 .....	864	5,235	" 1958 .....	823	15,630
" 1947 .....	867	7,148	" 1959 .....	804	17,168
" 1948 .....	802	6,937	" 1960 .....	801	16,702
" 1949 .....	790	8,328	" 1961 .....	799	17,098
" 1950 .....	800	6,980	" 1962 .....	771	17,858
" 1951 .....	810	10,275	" 1963 .....	1050	20,623
" 1952 .....	851	8,203	" 1964 .....	1080	22,416
			" 1965 .....	1087	23,044

# SUMMARY OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND — NOVEMBER 30, 1964

	MARKET VALUE	BOOK VALUE
Bonds	\$ 88,120	\$ 89,335
Preferred Stocks	11,220	12,815
Common Stocks	123,457	60,974
Cash	799	799
Grand Total	\$223,596	\$163,923

The Grand Total includes \$47,000, the Endowment Fund of Zion Church added after the reunification with St. John's. Estimated annual income of the Fund — \$8,175.

## STATISTICS OF ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL OF EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA 1965

### PASTOR, Rev. John F. Steinbruck

<i>Director of Education</i> .....	John Boesenhofer
<i>Superintendent</i> .....	Harry Denninger
<i>Financial Secretary</i> .....	Maynard N. Kressman
<i>Secretary</i> .....	William M. Streepy, Jr.
<i>Assistant Secretary</i> .....	Mrs. Robert Kirchofer

### NURSERY DEPARTMENT

<i>Supervisor</i> .....	Mrs. Howard Miller
<i>Teachers</i> .....	Mrs. George Kirchgassner
	Mrs. Donald Sandt
	Mrs. Gerald Mutter
	Miss Vicki Gano

### KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT

<i>Supervisor</i> .....	Mrs. Gus Deonis
<i>Teachers</i> .....	Mrs. Earl Young
	Mrs. Floyd Docker
	Mrs. Eugene O'Donnel
	Mrs. Michael Fritzo
	Miss Ruth Benner

### GRADES 1 AND 2

<i>Supervisor</i> .....	Mrs. Darein Smith
	Mrs. Jack Newhardt
<i>Teachers</i> .....	Mrs. William Lee
	Miss Barbara Fredericks



*Supervisor* ..... Jack Kressman  
*Teachers* ..... Mrs. Dawn Duncan  
                                      Mrs. Vernon Snyder  
                                      Miss Eleanor Streepy  
                                      Miss Betty Kirchgassner

<i>Supervisor</i> .....	William Kocher
<i>Teachers</i> .....	George Moore
	Herbert Emsweller
	Jack Bradt
	Paul Martin
	Mrs. William Bishop

<i>Supervisor</i> .....	Robert Reese
<i>Teachers</i> .....	Mrs. Joseph Barr
	Mrs. Hall Ramsey
	William Bishop
	Aubrey Bougher
	Hans J. Koch

*Supervisor* ..... David Schurz  
*Teachers* ..... William Wolfram  
                                  Richard Kessler  
                                  Martin Ostergren

Supervisor ..... Darien Smith  
Teachers ..... Edwin Schatkowski  
Howard Lawrence

..... Miss Hilda Schuck

## RECAPITULATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Officers and teachers	44
Pupil enrollment	
Nursery	22
Kindergarten	41
Grades 1 and 2	55
Grades 3 and 4	62
Grades 5 and 6	72
Grades 7, 8, 9	67
Senior High	37
Adult School	29
Bible Class	19

Total officers and teachers — 44, pupils — 404.

Average attendance including officers, teachers and students: 297. There are currently 29 classes, one music room and one audio visual room being used in the operating of the Sunday school.

#### TEACHING MATERIALS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

**NURSERY** — The Nursery Department is currently using Lutheran Sunday School Series "Now We Are Three." The New Curriculum will be used in this department in 1967.

**KINDERGARTEN** — The Kindergarten Department is using the "Gospel Light Series" and will begin using the New Curriculum in 1966.

**GRADES 1 AND 2** — Grades 1 and 2 are currently using the "Gospel Light Series" and will begin using the New Curriculum in 1966.

#### NEW PARISH EDUCATION CURRICULUM

**GRADES 3 AND 4** — "Fellow Workers for God." Pupils in these grades explore the meaning of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians "We are Fellow Workmen for God."

**TERM I** — Fellow Workers for God in daily living.

**TERM II** — Fellow Workers for God in the Church around the world.

**TERM III** — Fellow Workers for God find how it was in Bible times.

**GRADES 5 AND 6** — "Our Christian Response and Witness." These grades study their personal relationship to the Church and its living heritage.

**TERM I** — Response and Witness of great Christians.

**TERM II** — Response and Witness in worship.

**TERM III** — Response and Witness in daily living.

**GRADES 7, 8, 9** — "The Gospel Story of Jesus." The course for these grades is coordinated with a three year plan of Confirmation Instruction. The course challenges the pupils to a mature and systematic study of the "Gospel Story of Jesus."

**GRADES 10, 11, 12** — "Is it Christian?" A basic course for High School young people to help probe the Gospel for answers to some of their most pressing personal concerns and to help understand, test, and act upon a Lutheran interpretation of Christian Ethics.

**ELECTIVE COURSES** — "Parables of the Kingdom."

#### LUTHERANS AND OTHER DENOMINATIONS

**ADULTS** — A thirty-six week course, "Mighty Acts of God" — The beginning of an eight year course planned to study the Bible in terms of its dominate themes as they develop in relation to God's self-disclosing, saving deeds in the life of His Chosen People and the response of that People.



## SUPERINTENDENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Henry Bender	1832-1844
Henry Hammann	1844-1873
Owen Hagenbuch	1873-1892
Charles D. Stecker	1892-1923
Charles F. Stecker	1923-1953
Frank E. Stulz	1953-1959
Donald F. Bentz	1959-1963
Harry Denninger	1963-

## SECRETARIES

William S. Stoneback	1902-1947
William M. Streepy, Jr.	1947-

## TREASURERS

C. Fleming Sandt	1872-1927
William L. Ealer	1927-1941
Maynard N. Kressman	1941-

## CHOIRS OF ST. JOHN'S

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church has four choirs: the Cherub Choir, ages 6-8; the Junior Choir, ages 9-11; the Youth Choir, ages 12-18; and the Senior Choir for adults age 18 and above. The basic purpose is the same for all choirs: that music be used effectively as a means of worship. Martin Luther said, "I would that all the arts, and music in particular, be used in the service of Him who hath given and created them." This is what the choirs aim to do for and with the congregation.

Within the basic purpose, there are various aims and ideals with the emphases somewhat varied according to the age group. In each group there is opportunity for personal growth, spiritually, musically, vocally and socially. The slogan of the Choristers Guild, an international organization of children's choir directors, states it very aptly, "Christian character through Children's Choirs." In all choirs there is an opportunity to build a repertoire of good hymns and to learn the musical settings of the Liturgy. As members of a choir the individuals have the opportunity to speak their faith to one another and to the entire congregation by leading in the singing of the hymns and the music of the liturgy, by presenting parts of the service which the congregation could not sing without practice (the Introits), and by presenting special music from time to time in the form of anthems, motets, cantatas, and oratorios. Choir members as called to serve God and in so doing receive a blessing from Him.

The choir members in the beginning of the year 1965 are as follows:

### CHERUB CHOIR

Nancy Jo. Barr, Kenneth Diehl, Melinda Diehl, Barbara Docker, Nelinda Dull, Barbara Haney, Joe Heller, Betty Houck, Alfreda Jones, Boyd Moore, George Peterson, Cynthia Reese, Geoffrey Reese, Rodd Ruland, Keith Sarkady, Diane Schulte, Mark Steinbruck.

## JUNIOR CHOIR

Margaret Andrews, Melissa Bentz, John Bergstresser, Shirley Billheimer, Kathy Billman, Julie Boesenhofer, Susan Denninger, Susan Haney, Diane Heller, Linda Houck, Jane Jones, Viola Letson, Cynthia Martin, Michael Marrone, Charlene Merwarth, Marlene Moors, Barbara Nuttall, Renee Powell, Robin Reese, Caryn Reese, Ricki Ruland, Debora Schulte, John Schulte, Janet Stroble, Gloria Stull, Roxanne Werkiser, Loretta White, Cindy Wilkins.

## YOUTH CHOIR

SOPRANOS: Judy Ashton, Michele Ashton, Peggy Ashton, Eve Ike, Marjorie Janos, Susan Kressler, Janet Martin, Linda Martin, Christine Martinez, Charlene Nemeth, Sharon Prime, Jean Shook, Patricia Wooley.

ALTOS: Ruth Charles, Eileen Frankenfield, Janet Murray, Linda Pirola, Janet Simons, Elaine Wood.

BARITONES: David J. Ealer, William Ike, Larry Johnson.

## SENIOR CHOIR

SOPRANOS: Barbara Fredericks, Emma Gray, Jean Haney, Eva Kirchgassner, Rita Lee, Roberta Martin, Norma Jean Puehler, Geraldine Reese, Edith M. Seipel.

ALTOS: Ruth Boesenhofer, Patricia Bradt, Miriam Fretzo, Betty Kirchgassner, Naomi Walters.

TENORS: Robert A. Reese, Claude Reider, John Trenberth.

BASSES: Harry Denninger, Anthony L. Fretzo, Stephen Henley, Jr., William C. Pfeffer, Jr., Hall W. Ramsey, Robert Simons.

Roberta Martin directs the Cherub Choir. John C. Boesenhofer directs the Junior, Youth and Senior Choirs. The Senior Choir officers elected in May 1965:

*President*, Robert A. Reese  
*Vice-President*, Miriam Fretzo  
*Secretary*, Betty Kirchgassner  
*Treasurer*, Roberta Martin

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Emma Gray  
Eva Kirchgassner

Several ladies who sang in the Senior Choir for many years gave up active service in the choir during 1964 to continue their singing in the ultimate choir "The Congregation." They are: Leah Gangwear, Emily Lehr, Lena Meyers, Frieda Rowe and Minnie Zuck. Miss Zuck served as secretary and choir mother for many years, and was given an honorary Life Membership in the choir upon her retirement in June 1964.

A Weekday Church School has been organized in coordination with the children's choir program. There are classes for grades 2-6. The new curriculum materials are used. Teachers are: Ruth and John Boesenhofer, Susan Kressler, Roberta Martin, Geraldine Reese.



## LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

### PURPOSE

Lutheran Church Women seeks to be an instrument of Christian mission through which women of the Lutheran Church in America work together to help declare the Good news of Jesus Christ. Called together and led by the Holy Spirit, Lutheran women combine in this fellowship to study and grow in the faith and to serve the congregation and community as they are needed, either individually or together in an auxiliary. Lutheran Church Women is also one means by which Lutheran women may share in the world-wide work of the Church through prayers for and gifts to the total Church program.

### OFFICERS:

<i>President</i> .....	Mrs. Bernard Merwarth
<i>Secretary</i> .....	Mrs. Allen LaRose
<i>Statistical Secretary</i> .....	Mrs. Hall Ramsey
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Mrs. David Jones

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

<i>Membership</i> .....	Mrs. David Shriver
	Mrs. Albro Wilson
<i>Education</i> .....	Mrs. John Krantz
	Mrs. Richard Dreas
<i>Christian Service</i> .....	Mrs. Franklin Young
<i>Offerings</i> .....	Mrs. Richard Haney

### CIRCLE LEADERS:

<i>Esther</i> .....	Mrs. Lawrence Schurz
	Miss Ruth Benner
<i>Miriam</i> .....	Mrs. Donald LeClair
	Mrs. Earl Young
<i>Phoebe</i> .....	Mrs. Chester Swartz
	Mrs. Walter Krantz
<i>Rachel</i> .....	Mrs. G. Harris Heck
	Mrs. Ralph Way
<i>Sarah</i> .....	Miss Hilda Schuck
<i>Altar</i> .....	Mrs. Thomas Brown
<i>Friendship Guild</i> .....	Mrs. Kathryn Nitchkey

### LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD:

<i>President</i> .....	Harry W. Denninger
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	Albro C. Wilson
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> .....	Lewis J. Frauenfelder

## LUTHER LEAGUE

The Luther League is the official youth organization of the Lutheran Church in America. St. John's League is registered which means that it is part of the Luther League of the LCA and as such contributes annually to the work of the League and in turn receives its program and other materials from the Youth Office in Philadelphia.

The Luther League is for young people ages 12-25. St. John's league meets every Sunday at 7:00 p. m. with occasional variations in meeting times as announced in advance. The overall program includes education in Christian living through Worship, Stewardship, Evangelism, Social Service and Fellowship and Recreation. Leaguers are ready and willing to give of themselves in service to the church as the church gives them opportunities. As they grow through education and experience they can take their place more fully as active members of Christ's Church.

### OFFICERS:

The current active membership of the Luther League:

*President* ..... John Trenberth  
*Vice-President* ..... Linda Martin  
*Secretary* ..... Elaine Wood  
*Treasurer* ..... George Barr

Judy Ashton	Christine Martinez
Michele Ashton	Timothy Merwarth
Peggy Ashton	Carol Young
George Barr	Janet Murray
Susan Bishop	Nancy Murray
Ruth Charles	Robert Murray
David Ealer	Linda Pirola
Nora Funk	David Sacks
Philip Heil	Carol Sacks
Kenneth Henke	Gloria Sandt
Stephen Henley, Jr.	Janet Simons
Eve Ike	Robert Simons
William Ike	John Trenberth
Lawrence Johnson	Marjorie Young
Eileen Kelly	Jean Walters
Susan Kressler	Elaine Wood
Janet Martin	Patricia Wooley
Linda Martin	



## THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

This society was organized in 1833 and has been performing a fine service through the years. For many years the "Message for the Day" has been sent to the shut-ins of the congregation, and the devotional booklet "The Upper Room" is being distributed. Religious calendars are sent to this group for Christmas. Easter plants are arranged in the chancel by society members for the services and later taken to the shut-ins. Flowers are placed on the altar once a year in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Franklin K. Fretz and Sister Edith Stagg. Also flowers are planted in the urn on Sister Edith's grave in the Easton Cemetery. Small gifts of money for the holidays are given to those members who are in the Allentown State Hospital, Gracedale and Good Shepherd Home. The present officers are:

<i>President</i> .....	Mrs. Oliver T. Case
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	Mrs. Edgar C. Smith
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Miss Eleanor Streepy

### COMMITTEES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CONGREGATION EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA 1740-1965

Special Church Service — Sunday Morning, October 17th, 1965.  
Congregational Celebration — Wednesday Evening, October 20th.

#### EXECUTIVE (STEERING) COMMITTEE

John E. Halbing, *General Chairman*  
Dr. Walter C. G. Veit, *Co-Chairman*

Pastor John F. Steinbruck  
Richard P. Haney, *Pres. of Congregation*  
Earl G. Keyser, *V. P. of Congregation*  
John S. Cole  
Howard G. Drake  
William L. Ealer  
Dr. Edwin Eichlin  
Maynard N. Kressman  
Paul J. Martin  
Julia Merwarth

Frank O. Moser  
Norman A. Peil  
Frieda Rowe  
Paul E. Sandt  
Edward R. Schaible  
Lawrence C. Schurz  
Charles F. Stecker  
Katherine Stryker  
Ralph Way  
Hon. Carleton T. Woodring

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE — *Compilation of History of St. John's  
Preparation of Exhibits, etc.*

Dr. Walter C. G. Veit, *Chairman*

G. Howard Drake, *Co-Chairman*

William L. Ealer	Edward R. Schaible
Dr. Edwin Eichlin, Sr.	Charles F. Stecker
Maragret Hagerty	Katherine Stryker
Robert K. Kirchofer	Carl W. Veit
Willard Odenwelder	

ANNIVERSARY CHURCH SERVICE AND CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION

Pastor John F. Steinbruck, *Chairman*

JAMES A. HEMSTREET, *Co-Chairman of Ceremonies*

Frieda Rowe, *Co-Chairman of Congregational Festivities*

Helen Aicher	Felicia Prime
Jennie Apgar	Lawrence Schurz
Esther Bellmer	Hilda Schuck
Frank C. Buss	Lena Myers
Harry W. Denninger	Elmer W. Rowe
Mrs. G. Harris Heck, Sr.	Alice Swartz
Pearl Kirchofer	Anna Searfoss
Marion Koleser	Helen Shoffner
Paul Martin	Eleanor Streepy
Robertta Martin	Miriam Way
	Abro G. Wilson

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Maynard N. Kressman, *Chairman*

Richard C. Kessler	William M. Streepy
Thomas E. Kleppinger	Emily Ramsey

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE — *Printing of History, Programs, etc.*

Frank O. Moser, *Chairman*

William J. Kocher  
David Shriver, Sr.  
David Schurz

FINANCE COMMITTEE AND LIAISON WITH CHURCH COUNCIL

Earl Keyser, *Chairman*

William J. Daub, II  
Norman A. Peil  
Kenneth C. Snyder, *Treasurer of Congregation*



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 Mr. Claude L. Ackerman  
 Mr. Edwin A. Ackerman  
 Mrs. Mary Ackerman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ackerman  
 Mrs. George D. Adamson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Calvin R. Aerni  
 Miss Helene R. Aerni  
 Robert C. Aerni  
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Aicher  
 Mr. Frank H. Aicher  
 Miss Helen Aicher  
 Miss Irene Aicher  
 Mr. Walter D. Aicher  
 Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Alff  
 Mr. Lewis Allen  
 Mr. Robert Allen  
 Mr. Herman Altenkirch  
 Miss Kay Altenkirch  
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 Mr. Kenneth D. Apgar  
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 Mr. Wm. Apgar, Jr.  
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 Mr. & Mrs. James Aschenbach  
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 Miss Peggy Sue Ashton

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 Miss Ruth Ann Bare  
 Miss Helen Barnett  
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 Mrs. Bertha Beam

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 Miss Esther Bellmer  
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 Miss Shirley Bernhard  
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 Miss Hilda Ehmer  
 Miss Margaret Ehmer  
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 Mrs. Harry Haupt  
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Miss Bertha Kolb  
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 Miss Patricia Ann McGrogan  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Francis McKee  
 Mrs. Elsie McLellan

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 Miss Joann Nitchkey  
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